

Nathaniel Holmes House (Holmestead)
36 Main Street
Dennisville
Cape May County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-752

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE New Jersey		COUNTY Cape May	TOWN OR VICINITY Dennisville
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Nathaniel Holmes House			HABS NO. NJ-752
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Holmestead			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 36 Main Street			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1750; 1822		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) William Armstrong, builder (1822)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Interesting example of an early 19th century vernacular structure. Constructed for Nathaniel Holmes, patriarch of a well-known local family. Also significant as an example of the work of local builder and wood carver, William Armstrong.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Vernacular			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Frame with beaded weather-board sheathing. Fieldstone foundations.			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Basically rectangular; 6-bay front; 2-1/2 stories tall; porch across rear facade; small porch and stoop on front facade; gable roof; 1-story addition on north			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Pedimented front porch. Main entrance is flanked by pilasters and has a semi-circular transom.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Original flooring; early hardware; tri-partite mantle with Neoclassical decoration in south room, first floor; heavy cornerposts protrude into some rooms; the date "1822" is inscribed on a basement wall.			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES In 1887: the hall was enlarged and the open stair removed; 2 fireplaces removed. In 1960: central heating installed; the early "mined" cedar shingles which were on part of the roof were removed.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Bassett, William B. Historic American Buildings Survey of New Jersey, 1977. Work Sheet of the New Jersey Historical Sites Evaluation.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS			DATE 6/19/84